



**University of
Zurich**^{UZH}

**Zurich Open Repository and
Archive**

University of Zurich
University Library
Strickhofstrasse 39
CH-8057 Zurich
www.zora.uzh.ch

Year: 2020

Bony Patella Impingement with Knee Locking in Severe Patellofemoral Arthritis

Heinz, Peter ; Sager, Stephan ; Dreher, Thomas

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.3238/arztebl.2020.0614b>

Posted at the Zurich Open Repository and Archive, University of Zurich

ZORA URL: <https://doi.org/10.5167/uzh-199666>

Journal Article

Published Version

Originally published at:

Heinz, Peter; Sager, Stephan; Dreher, Thomas (2020). Bony Patella Impingement with Knee Locking in Severe Patellofemoral Arthritis. *Deutsches Ärzteblatt International*, 117(37):614.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.3238/arztebl.2020.0614b>



CLINICAL SNAPSHOT

Bony Patella Impingement with Knee Locking in Severe Patellofemoral Arthritis

An 84-year-old female patient, while turning in bed at night, suffered shooting pains and knee locking in the right knee with apparent patella luxation, which made a loud bang when reduced by the emergency services that were summoned. At inpatient admission, findings were age-appropriate, with no impaired movement, swelling, or pain over the retinaculum. The following morning, spontaneous painful “luxation” re-occurred, again with locking and inability to stretch. Due to an osteophyte that repeatedly became caught in a trochlear cartilage defect (see lateral X-ray), recurrent impingement/pseudoluxation occurred. Following surgical removal of the osteophyte, rapid and complete recovery and good ROM (range of motion) of the knee (E/F 0°/0°/100°) were seen. Bony impingement is significantly less common than soft tissue impingement in patients with partial knee prosthesis and, in the absence of direct trauma, is only possible if the patella catches on the cartilage in the presence of osteophyte-related patella lesions and trochlear cartilage defects. In these cases, active stretching is inhibited and a palpable indentation proximal to the patella is present upon passive extension, similar to a quadriceps tendon rupture.



Figures: a) Preoperative: patella caught in the trochlea;
b) Postoperative: normal shape of the patella

Peter Heinz, Kinderchirurgie, Kinderorthopädie & Traumatologie, Universitäts-Kinderspital Zürich, (formerly See-Spital Horgen) peter.heinz@kispi.uzh.ch

Dr. med. Stephan Sager, Chirurgie, See-Spital Horgen

Prof. Dr. med. Thomas Dreher, Kinderorthopädie & Traumatologie, Universitäts-Kinderspital Zürich

Conflict of interests: The authors state that there are no conflicts of interest.

Translated from the original German by Christine Rye.

Cite this as: Heinz P, Sager S, Dreher T: Bony patella impingement with knee locking in severe patellofemoral arthritis. Dtsch Arztebl Int 2020; 117: 614b. DOI: 10.3238/arztebl.2020.0614b